

03050110-04
(Congaree River)

General Description

Watershed 03050110-04 (formerly 03050110-060, 070) is located in Richland and Calhoun Counties and consists primarily of the lowest reach of the **Congaree River** and its tributaries from Toms Creek to its confluence with the Wateree River Basin. The watershed occupies 69,722 acres of the Upper Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 37.2% forested land, 32.4% agricultural land, 23.4% forested wetland (swamp), 5.8% urban land, 0.9% water, and 0.3% nonforested wetland (marsh).

Griffins Creek drains into Running Lake, which in turn flows through Little Lake, Big Lake, and into Running Creek. Running Creek drains into Singleton Creek, which flows through Bates Old River to reach the Congaree River. Buckhead Creek (True Blue Creek) enters the river further downstream, along with Toms Creek (Haithcock Pond, Westons Pond, Ray Branch, Drafts Pond, McKenzie Creek). The lower section of the Congaree National Park, a floodplain forest with the largest contiguous tract of old-growth bottomland hardwoods in the United States, lies within this watershed. There are a total of 207.2 stream miles and 410.1 acres of lake waters in this watershed, all classified FW except within the Congaree National Park. Within the 2006 boundary of the Congaree National Park, all streams are classified ORW. The park boundary has expanded since 2006, and the classifications of those waters within the expanded boundary will be reevaluated by SCDHEC, but are currently classified FW.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
S-952	SSS	FW	TOMS CREEK AT CR 84
S-951	SSS	FW	TOMS CREEK AT UNPAVED CO. ROAD BETW SR 1318 & SR 1322
C-072	INT	FW	TOMS CREEK AT SC 48
S-950	SSS/BIO	FW	TOMS CREEK AT RED BLUFF ROAD BETWEEN SR 1288 & SR 489
RS-04521	RS04/BIO	FW	BUCKHEAD CREEK AT S-09-151, 2.1 MI NE OF FORT MOTTE
C-007	INT	FW	CONGAREE RIVER AT US 601

Toms Creek - There are four SCDHEC monitoring stations along Toms Creek. The two most upstream sites (**S-952**, **S-951**) are special study sites and only sampled for fecal coliform. Both of these sites are fully supported for recreational uses. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH conditions. Although pH excursions occurred at next site downstream (**C-072**), they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Aquatic life uses at C-072 are fully supported; however, there is a significant increasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and a decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions. At the furthest downstream site (**S-950**), aquatic life uses are partially supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

Buckhead Creek (RS-04521) - Aquatic life uses are partially supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low dissolved oxygen concentration conditions. Although dissolved oxygen excursions occurred, they were typical of values seen in blackwater systems and were considered natural, not standards violations. Recreational uses are fully supported.

Congaree River (C-007) – Aquatic life uses are not supported due to occurrences of copper in excess of the aquatic life chronic criterion. In addition, there are significant increasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentration. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. A significant decreasing trend in total phosphorus concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by SCDHEC for mercury and includes portions of streams within this watershed (see advisory p.131).

NPDES Permitted Activities

Active NPDES Facilities

<i>RECEIVING STREAM FACILITY NAME</i>	<i>NPDES# TYPE</i>
CONGAREE RIVER CHEROKEE INC./BELLEVILLE MINE	SCG731120 MINOR INDUSTRIAL

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

<i>RECEIVING STREAM MUNICIPALITY RESPONSIBLE PARTY IMPLEMENTING PARTY</i>	<i>NPDES# MS4 PHASE MS4 SIZE</i>
TOMS CREEK ----- RICHLAND COUNTY RICHLAND COUNTY	SCS400001 PHASE I MEDIUM MS4

Nonpoint Source Permitted Activities

Land Disposal Activities

Landfill Facilities

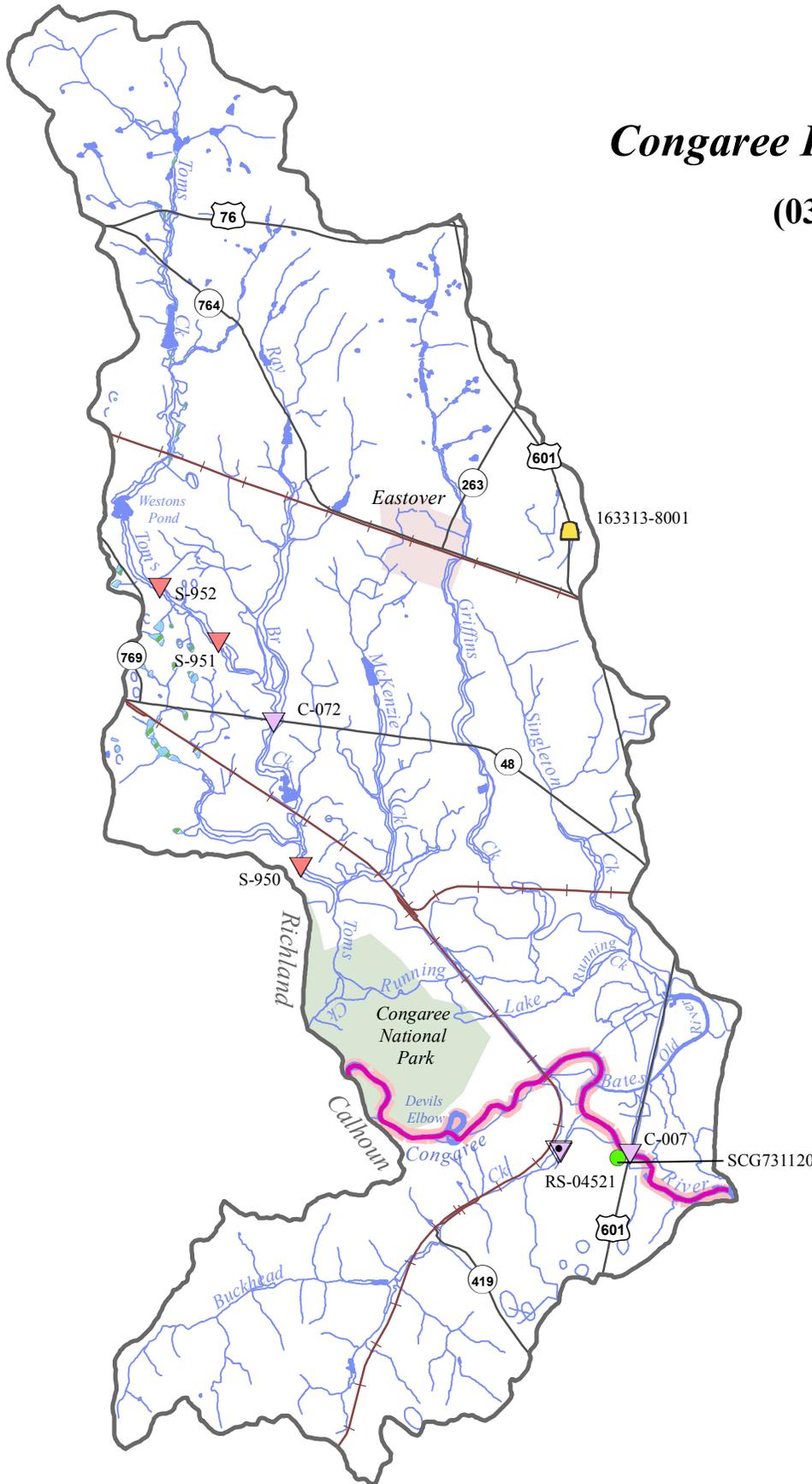
<i>LANDFILL NAME FACILITY TYPE</i>	<i>PERMIT # STATUS</i>
INTERNATIONAL PAPER INDUSTRIAL	163313-8001 ACTIVE

Growth Potential

There is currently a low potential for growth in this watershed, which contains a portion of the Town of Eastover, although this could change if Richland County Utilities proceeds with plans to develop an interceptor line along US 378 tying into the Eastover WWTP on the Wateree River. The implementation of these plans could be the impetus for residential, commercial, and industrial growth that is currently prohibited due to the lack of infrastructure.

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- ▽ Macroinvertebrate Stations
- ▽ Water Quality Monitoring Stations
- ▽ Approved TMDL
- ▲ Groundwater Monitoring Stations
- ▽ Special Study Stations
- ✂ Mines
- 🗑 Landfills
- NPDES Permits
- ♦ Land Application Permits
- 🏊 Natural Swimming Areas
- ⚡ Interstates
- ✂ Railroad Lines
- ⚡ Highways
- ⚡ County Lines
- 🌊 Modeled Stream
- 🌊 Stream
- 🟦 Lake
- 🟩 Wetland
- 📏 10-Digit Hydrologic Units
- 🏘 Cities/Towns
- 🟩 Public Lands

